

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:02 p.m. Executive Session, Mrs. Winters made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5, (a) (1) Administrative Contract (a) (2) Litigation: EGSC vs. EG Education Association KM2015-0717; (a) (2) Teacher Negotiations. Mr. Fain seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Dr. Yan Sun; Mr. David Osborne, and Mr. Michael Fain. Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; and Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services were also present.

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and announced a vote was taken in executive session to approve an administrative contract. The vote passed 5-0.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Public Comments

Caroline Jarrett asked if Frenchtown and Meadowbrook start times would be aligned next year. Dr. Mercurio said the school start time proposal includes aligning all four elementary schools.

IV. Recognitions

- a. Peri Sheinin-EGHS-2015 R.I. State Tennis Singles Champion**
- b. Justin Ferra-EGHS-2015 Paralympic All-American Javelin and Long Jump**

The Committee recognized both students for their accomplishments.

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular and Executive for October 20, 2015**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the minutes.

VI. Superintendent's Report

RIDE is hosting an invitation-only PARCC briefing at Cole on November 12th at

3:30 p.m. The next flu clinic is scheduled for November 5th from 4:00-6:30 p.m. SO Rhode Island ran a great article on the East Greenwich School District. Choose to Matter

will be held November 23 and 24 at EGHS. The film by Tony Wagner will be shown on Sunday, November 22nd. The EGEF Spelling Bee will be held on Sunday, November 8th from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Professional development for secondary teachers and elementary parent conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 25th.

Tonight, there is a statewide meeting with the board of education to review the funding formula. The group will provide

recommendations prior to the holiday break. Information regarding ratings for Bright Stars pre-k will be posted in the Supt's Field Memo.

Dana Gee has produced posters to publicize the newly adopted Strategic Plan Vision 2020. Mrs. Gee was acknowledged and thanked for her work in creating the format for the Strategic Plan Vision 2020 and for creating the posters.

VII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VIII. Action Items

a. Appointments

1. District Truancy Officer-Paul Manzi

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve this part-time position.

2. Co-Class Advisor-Class of 2018-Shelly Avarista

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the appointment.

b. Resignation

1. Drama Advisor-EGHS-Tim Kenney

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the resignation. This resignation will trigger the posting/appointment of the assistant drama coach at EGHS.

c. Home School Request-Grade 8

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the request.

d. School Committee Meeting Dates for 2016

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the meeting dates with revisions to the budget workshops.

IX. School Committee Polices-First Read

1. Policy Committee Charge-First Read

Mr. Osborne reviewed the newly drafted Charge, which will receive a second read at the next meeting.

2. #2160 Transportation Policy-First Read of Revised Policy

The changes made to “Transportation to ‘Home School’ and Limited Exception” give the Superintendent discretion regarding transportation for students who remain in their non-home school when enrollment numbers allow the student to transition back. This policy will receive a second read at the next meeting.

X. Advisory/Subcommittee Updates

a. Health and Wellness Committee and Mental Health Subcommittee

Ms. Mark summarized the Health and Wellness meeting that took place on October 26th. There was discussion regarding Heart Safe School Accreditation, Staff Wellness/Blue Cross Grant Opportunity, and Health and Wellness Committee goals for 2015-2016. Ms. Mark also discussed the Mental Health Subcommittee meeting that took place on October 27th. Updates/discussion on the Mental Health First Responder training, Mental Health Awareness month, Character Education Program at Meadowbrook, update on the Strategic Plan, and goals/action plan for 2015-2016 were discussed.

b. Technology Advisory Committee

The Committee met on October 27th to discuss district-wide tech

needs. Mr. Babson listed 1:1 devices at Cole as the top priorities with an associated cost of approximately \$100,000. The Committee also discussed collaborative opportunities between the school and town (i.e., notification systems, network storage, web hosting, etc). Mr. Osborne asked about the possibility of bring your own device (byod) to Cole. There were several issues with byod that were presented during discussion of 1:1 at EGHS.

X. Discussion

a. Financial Update

Mrs. Wilcox presented a financial update of FY2015 ending June 30, 2015 and FY2016 with three months ending September 30, 2015. Mrs. Wilcox explained the medical and dental claims incurred, but not recorded (IBNR). Historically this line (IBNR) for the prior year has been disclosed via a financial statement footnote disclosure. Mrs. Wilcox explained that some government entities record this amount as expenditure in the fiscal year it relates to, rather than disclosing it by footnote only. After discussion, the Committee said they would like it recorded as expenditure. This will be adjusted with the auditors. The next financial update is scheduled for January. Dr. Mercurio met with budget owners to discuss planning for FY2016 and gave direction to plan for a flat budget with the exception of those items connected with all day kindergarten and school start times, which both have associated costs. Dr. Mercurio recently met with district library/media specialists to hear their concerns about delivering programs with current funding (which received cuts). Concerns were also voiced regarding the lack of a district

coordinator for library/media specialists. Dr. Mercurio discussed the option of transferring funds from the FY2015 budget to library/media specialists. The dollar amount could equal four figures.

b. All Day Kindergarten Update

Dr. Mercurio has a meeting scheduled with kindergarten teachers, their principals, and Mrs. Winters (all-day k ad hoc member) to discuss scheduling for all day kindergarten and how to deliver instruction. Answers to Dr. Gifford's questions regarding best practice will be discussed at the November 17th meeting. Members of the former ad hoc kindergarten committee will be invited.

c. School Start Time Update

Dr. Mercurio and Barrington Superintendent Messore went to Sharon, Massachusetts two weeks ago to get input from students, staff, and parents about the change in school start time. Sharon High School used to begin at 7:20 a.m. and now starts at 8:00 a.m.

Teachers' discussed the initial disconnects associated with athletics and after school activities. Sharon changed the schedule and added "Eagle time" during the day, which is used for directed study and issues that would normally be taken care of after school. Parents' said students' got about forty minutes of extra sleep and were going to bed at their normal time. Students' said they make up tests, meet for band/clubs, and receive enrichment during "Eagle time." Most students' said they go to bed at 10-11:00 p.m. and get up forty minutes extra sleep. The entire day at Sharon was redesigned with a six- day rotating schedule with "Eagle time" embedded. Dr. Mercurio will present an implementation plan to the School Committee at the

December 1st meeting.

XI . Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY